

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting summary of River Resources Coordinating Team, 23-24 January 2007

1. A meeting of the River Resources Coordinating Team was held on January 23 12:30-4:00 and January 24th from 8:30-11:00 in the Rock Island District Conference Rooms ABC. The agenda is provided as Attachment 1. The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Steve Russell, Corps (Acting Co-chair)	Jon Stravers, Audubon Society
Mike Griffin, Iowa DNR (Co-chair)	Doug Blodgett, The Nature Conservancy
Jim Fischer, Wisconsin DNR	Prairie Rivers Network
Bob Schanzle, Illinois DNR	George Hardison, Corps
Jim Mick, Illinois DNR (Phone-in)	Brad Thompson, Corps
Janet Sternburg, Missouri DOC (Phone-in)	Jerry Skalak, Corps
Jon Duyvejonck, US Fish and Wildlife	Kenny Brenner, Corps
Service Rock Island Field Office	Marvin Hubbell, Corps
Rick Nelson, US Fish and Wildlife Service	Jodi Staebell, Corps
Rock Island Field Office	Dorie Bollman, Corps
Ed Britton, USFWS Upper Mississippi Fish	Scott Whitney, Corps
and Wildlife Refuge	Mark Cornish, Corps
Terry Savko, Illinois Department of	Michael Tarpey, Corps
Agriculture	Gary Loss, Corps
Vicky Stoller, UMIMRA (Phone-in)	Roger Perk, Corps
	Angela Freyermuth, Corps

2. **Agenda** (Mike Griffin, Steve Russell)

The group approved the minutes of the May 2006 meeting with minor revisions. The final minutes are included as Attachment 2.

3. **Illinois River Basin Restoration (Section 519)** (Brad Thompson)

Brad Thompson gave a presentation on the Illinois River Basin Restoration Program (Attachment 3). The final report of the Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for distribution in April 2007, pending final approval at Corps Headquarters. There are three components to the Illinois River Basin Restoration Program – the Comprehensive Plan, Critical Restoration Projects, and a monitoring component. The near term recommendations are \$131.2 million for 16 named projects in the basin, none of which duplicate EMP or NESP projects. The monitoring program, not currently authorized for implementation, will utilize the existing Havana and Alton EMP field stations and likely other sources as well. There has been a reduction in the monitoring component in the near term recommendations based on Corps Headquarters review/Corps policy. Multiple Corps Districts are involved including the Rock Island District, St. Louis District, Chicago District and Detroit District. Brad Thompson stated that we have been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other

Federal and state partners, but there is the opportunity for more partnering. Brad Thompson noted that the NRCS has already worked in many of the tributary watersheds such as the Spoon River and Senachwine Creek.

4. Continuing Authorities Projects (CAP) for Ecosystem Restoration (Brad Thompson)

As with many other activities, Corps FY07 funding for CAP projects is uncertain. The district carried over some funds from FY06, which is being spent on the projects that were funded in FY06 (Attachment 4). Projects named in the House conference report included specific funded amounts, but projects that were named in the Senate conference report did not include amounts.

5. Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMP) (Jerry Skalak)

The status of the Mississippi River DMMPs are in Attachment 5. The Oqwuaka DMMP will be completed in March 2007. Lock 21 DMMP is final and the Real Estate Design Memorandum (REDM) is processing. The Corps is pursuing necessary real estate for Lock and Dam 22 DMMP Site 1 (Illinois behind the Sny Levee) and Site 8 (quarry site in Missouri). Hogback REDM. Work on the Pool 18 Channel Maintenance Pool Plan (ChaMPP) continues. Mike Griffin asked if there was coordination with the Pool 18 ChaMPP and the Huron Island HREP. Jerry Skalak responded that it is to the extent consistent with its purpose.

Attachment 5 also provides the status of Illinois Waterway DMMPs. The Corps is pursuing acquisition at three DMMPs; Dresden, Grist Island and Pekin-LaMarsh. Condemnation continues on the Dresden DMMP, for which there is a court date in March. The Corps may owe some additional funds to the land owner. The quarry for the Grist Island DMMP has changed hands. The new owner may not be as interested in donating the land as the previous owner. This property was appraised at \$700,000. The Pekin-LaMarsh DMMP is the highest priority on the Illinois Waterway and is challenging. One of the three owners wants twice the appraisal value for his property. Three IWW DMMPs are in the planning phase; Spring Valley, LaSalle and Quiver. LaSalle DMMP is in the pre-acquisition.

Delays in acquisitions are due to funding levels. The Corps is trying to maintain contact with landowners and others through the delays. Corps staff is also working to improve communication with our Emergency Management office regarding placement near existing levees. We are now at the “acquisition bubble” where the Corps has many placement sites to acquire and limited funding to acquire them.

The draft report for the Pool 18 ChaMPP will be ready for internal review and coordination in March 2007. Agencies need to review this closely as this is the prototype for future plans. Janet Sternburg requested a copy of the Pool 18 ChaMPP Report for review. Jim Fischer asked if the Pool 18 ChaMPP was coordinated with the draft Pool 18 Environmental Pool Plans. Jerry Skalak responded that it is to the extent consistent with its purpose.

Information on the recently completed Quiver Island and Pool 21 DMMPs was provided (Attachment 6). The RRCT reviewed the plans and recommended approval of the Quiver Island DMMP and the Lock 21 DMMP to the Corps. For the Lock 21 DMMP the group noted that there are no mussels in the immediate area. Alignment of the new lock wouldn't affect the DMMP sites.

6. Floodplain Management (Jerry Skalak)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funded the Corps for evaluation of the mainstem Mississippi River levees as follow-on of the Flow Frequency Study. The evaluation includes all five districts. This evaluation is not for levee certification. The product won't be all the work necessary for producing FEMA maps. Jerry Skalak noted that flood insurance rates are rising 6-10% in May 2007.

The Corps is developing a levee database that will include all levees in the US. Some new data will be collected as part of this effort and some work will be done by contract.

Vicky Stoller expressed frustration with levee certification. The Corps has received many calls on levee certification issues. The Corps is responding to requests for existing information. FEMA is not funding certification. Levee owners are responsible for certifying their levees. The two year timeframe for getting a levee certified starts when FEMA's PAL (Provisionally Accredited Levee) agreement is signed.

The Floodplain Management Services special study at Jack Oak Slough near Cassville may be funded this year. The Rock Island District doesn't have much Planning Assistances to States (PAS) work for this FY. Jerry Skalak asked attendees to let him know of any potential water resources studies that state or local government would like to conduct. The PAS work is cost-shared 50% Federal: 50% non-Federal.

7. Dredging and Committee to Assess Regulating Structures (Kenny Brenner)

Final data for the 2006 dredging season was provided (Attachment 7). There was no hydraulic dredging on the Illinois Waterway in FY06 though the Corps projected a need to dredge 213,000 cubic yards. Mechanical dredging on the Illinois Waterway totaled 70,876 cubic yards in Calendar Year 2006. On the Mississippi River, 280,000 cubic yards was hydraulically dredged in 2006 which is near the 10-year average. Mechanical dredging on the Mississippi River totaled 86,000 and was completed with Corps in-house crews.

Kenny Brenner noted that he was surprised by the small quantities of dredging required considering that 2006 was a low water year. There was no dredging in the lower pools which is where the Corps normally dredges. He noted that some areas were close to requiring dredging and the Corps received some comments from the towing industry.

Kenny Brenner reviewed how the Corps determines where to dredge in a given year. The Corps looks at data on historic dredging frequency and survey data from prior years. In winter, the Corps compiles a list of projected locations and amounts and coordinates this list at the mid-winter On-Site Inspection Team meeting. As dredging season nears, the Corps puts out notices to the OSIT. Kenny Brenner stated that the Corps has the most problem with shoaling in years when high water comes down quickly.

The group discussed the Dark Slough dredge cut (Pool 13) and islands constructed with the dredged material. Kenny Brenner stated that the second island will be difficult to access for rock placement. The group noted that if the location of the second island needs to be moved, additional mussel sampling will be needed. Kenny Brenner noted that the Corps is trying to

place soil on the sand at the first island. Ed Britton requested the estimated cost for constructing the first island in Pool 13.

The group discussed the Hurricane chronic dredge cut (Pool 11). The Corps estimated dredging 13,000 cubic yards of material. Final quantities were 15,000 cubic yards of material. Jim Fischer noted that the On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) meeting was called with little notice and asked for more advanced notice in the future.

The rock budget for regulating structures has been cut. Kenny Brenner stated that there is no funding for rock work on the Illinois Waterway in FY07. FY07 rock work on the Mississippi River will include wingdam work at Hogback Island (Pool 21) and Oquawka wingdams and chevrons (Pool 18). Separate Environmental Assessments for the Oquawka wingdams and chevrons will be distributed for public review later this year.

8. Environmental Management Program (EMP) (Marvin Hubbell)

EMP is using last years funding amount of \$19.8M as the base for this years planning. The base Minimally Sustainable Program (MSP) of the Long Term Resource Monitoring component will be funded, but we don't know if there will be sufficient funding to initiate any work under the Additional Program Elements (APEs) portion of LTRMP. If EMP receives \$23 M this FY, the Corps anticipates that OMB will require us to utilize \$3M develop an Aquatic Restoration Plan for EMP. Marvin Hubbell anticipates funding will be under that threshold this FY.

The Corps is developing an outreach effort with the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque to add a piece on EMP and Mississippi River ecosystem restoration. This will be discussed at the upcoming EMP-CC (EMP Coordinating Committee) meeting. EMP is working to better link the LTRM and Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) components. The Corps is funding a USGS employee to be involved in the project development team for 1 HREP in each district. Marvin Hubbell stated that the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has requested that the Corps look more at water quality in our HREPs. A meeting with the Corps and USEPA is scheduled for February 13th.

Following is information on the status of HREPs in Rock Island District:

Lake Odessa – Stage I is approximately \$5M. Construction of the articulated concrete block spillway for Stage I needs to be completed before spring high water. There is some funding for Stage II, which is anticipated to be completed in FY08. Fox Island – Plans and specifications will be started in April 07, and are anticipated to be complete in November 07 (this has subsequently been delayed). Construction is expected to begin in January or February 08 (this has subsequently been delayed).. Rice Lake - Completing the Definite Project Report and Real Estate Plan in FY07, and then start the Project Cooperation Agreement. Plans and specs are anticipated to start at the end of FY08. Construction anticipated for FY09-11.

Six new HREPs from each district were recommended. Fact Sheets on these projects are available. The System Ecological Team (SET) is scheduled to meet on March 6-7 to sequence the projects. Mike Griffin and some Corps staff will attend a special training to prepare them for project sequencing.

The Corps and USGS will meet to discuss refinement of the Additional Program Elements (APE) identification and selection process for FY08. There is an issue with the Corps funding schedule and an issue with funding software programs. A 5-year Strategic Plan for the LTRM Program will start in April and is anticipated to take from 14 to 18 months.

The HREP database is still under development. The next step is to link the Access Data Base with the GIS coverage for each project.

9. Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) (Jodi Staebell)

The Fact Sheets for proposed Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects were completed and forwarded to the EMP Program Manager. The FWIC conducted initial coordination for the proposed thalweg placement sites for the Pool 18 Drawdown in accordance with the thalweg placement flow chart. The MV Boyer completed substrate sampling of the proposed placement sites. Jon Duyvejonck noted that the thalweg placement will be discussed at a meeting in early February on mussel issues related to the drawdown. The FWIC is planning to partner with Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa to complete the Environmental Pool Plans.

A FWIC meeting will be held in early spring. Potential topics include Science Panel products, mid-winter OSIT, sequencing by the System Evaluation Team, and adaptive management.

The group discussed lack of participation in FWIC by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources due to reduced staffing and funding limitations. Mike Griffin proposed that the RRCT send a letter to Sam Flood, IDNR Director asking for increased participation by the Illinois DNR.

10. Fish and Wildlife Service Update (Jon Duyvejonck, Ed Britton)

Ecological Services (ES)

Jon Duyvejonck stated that the Rock Island Field Office (RIFO) has conducted numerous consultations for the Higgin's Eye Pearly mussel. Consultations include many individual 404 permits, HREPs, and Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) projects. These combined actions could result in impacts to significant number of individuals. RIFO is evaluating the need to re-open consultation for the Biological Opinion on NESP and Navigation Operation and Maintenance. The number of individuals identified for allowable "take" in the NESP Biological Opinion may have been too conservative. RIFO would like to be proactive and estimate the current Higgin's Eye population, develop standardized protocol for assessing the quality of a site with mussels, and develop standardized protocol for sampling and surveying for mussels. Duyvejonck raised the question whether the LTRM should have a mussel component. The LTRM is currently considering mussel conservation and Higgin's eye. RIFO is moving to an office in Moline this spring.

Ed Britton provided an update on the Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Some refuges are experiencing staffing reductions. The Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge is a high priority refuge and likely to experience fewer reductions than other refuges. The Savanna District of the refuge lost one biotech position. There may be some duties previously performed by refuge staff that may now be performed by Ecological Services staff. There was an anti-hunting lawsuit on the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP); therefore, new components in the plan will not go into effect for one year. The group noted the conflict

between staffing reductions and the CCP which assumed that 20 new positions would be created at the refuge.

11. State Updates.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) (Jim Fischer)

With change in power in the Congress, Ron Kind is on the House Ways and Means Committee and Senator Kohl is on the Appropriations Committee. This may be helpful for UMR related issues.

The Recreation Work Group of the River Resources Forum (RRCT counterpart in the St. Paul District) conducted a public boating access survey which monitored the use of river access points during the Pool 5 Drawdown. Use levels were stable. There was an increase in using at some sites between 2003 and 2005-2006 due to updated boat accesses. Jim Fischer noted that the Recreation Work Group is trying to re-start the UMRCC Recreation Technical Section at the upcoming UMRCC meeting.

Staffs at several Locks and Dams have been taking transparency tube measurements for indications of water clarity. The results of this monitoring was compared to the UMRCC recommended target of 0.5 meters transparency for establishment and support of submersed aquatic vegetation. There was not sufficient transparency at Locks and Dams 3, 16, and 18. This may be due to input from upstream tributaries. The WDNR appreciates the Corps assistance with this effort.

Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) (Janet Sternburg)

Janet Sternburg noted that MDC receives 2/3 of their funding from sales tax revenue (1/8 of 1% sales tax with the remainder coming from permits and federal funding. Sales tax revenue is currently not as high as they would like it to be, resulting in fuel cuts as well as reduction in temporary and term labor and central office staff. The MDC is at the top limit for Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) and is considering closely whether to refill vacancies.

Sternburg stated that the five Corps Districts in Missouri met with Missouri agencies at the state meeting. Sternburg noted that the Middle Mississippi River Partnership were successful in getting funding for hydrogeomorphic modeling to identify restoration potential on the middle Mississippi River. The River Resources Action Team (RRAT) Technical Team is meeting to develop pool plans for Pools 26 and higher. The RRAT boat trip is scheduled for the last two weeks in June on the Open River. Sternburg reminded the group of the upcoming UMRCC meetings March 20-22 in Red Wing, Minnesota and the Lower Mississippi River Coordinating Committee (LMRCC) in Memphis, Tennessee on June 11-13.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IL DNR) (Jim Mick and Bob Schanzle)

The Illinois State Meeting with the Corps is scheduled for March. Bob Schanzle informed the group that 2007 is the 20th anniversary of the Illinois On-site Inspection Team (OSIT). He noted that Scott Stuewe is leaving the Illinois DNR at the end of June and will be joining a consulting firm in Springfield, Illinois. Jim Mick and Bob Schanzle discussed budget restricts and travel restrictions for the Illinois DNR. Jim Mick discussed that the Corps St. Louis District, MDC,

and IL DNR are working on a sturgeon management plan. The RRAT Technical group discussed baseline information on the pallid sturgeon.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR) (Mike Griffin)

Iowa has a new governor, Chet Culver, and Lieutenant Governor Patty Judge who was the former Iowa Secretary of Agriculture. Rich Leopold, the new DNR Director, was recently director of the Iowa Environmental Council and formerly worked for the DNR in water quality. The IADNR reorganization plan is on hold pending review by the new leadership.

12. Non-Governmental Organizations

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is proceeding with restoration at Emiquon. Plants have been ordered, NRCS is on board with conservation easements, and TNC is working with the Corps on a 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project. TNC is working hard on WRDA and the Farm Bill. They are looking at floodplain easements and are prioritizing potential floodplain restoration sites on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River.

The Audubon Society is having a conference in the Twin Cities that is focusing on the Mississippi River. Audubon has a bird conservation area project in northeast Iowa.

13. Comprehensive Plan Conclusions (Jack Carr)

The study successfully developed a set of tools capable of analyzing the hydraulic, economic, and environmental effects of systemic flood damage reduction alternatives. The existing flood damage reduction systems currently prevent over 97% of the potential flood damages on the system. The hydrologic body of knowledge of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers has dramatically increased as a direct result of the Comprehensive Plan. The systemic modeling is a very useable product for the future, if maintained for the Corps and other Federal, state and local agencies. It allows, for the first time, the determination of system-wide impacts to actual and proposed changes. This modeling has the potential to substantially change the way this river system is managed.

Specific findings of the hydraulic analysis of alternatives include: The levees above Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk, Iowa (study reaches 1 and 2) can be raised without causing more than a one-foot increase in 100-yr flood profile. Likewise, the levees on the Illinois River (reach 4) can be raised without causing more than one foot of rise in the 100-yr flood profile. Several flood damage reduction measures (levee setbacks, realignments, and remove bridge obstructions) have only a very localized reduction of water surface profiles. Temporary emergency actions such as flood fighting and emergency operations can generally occur, but there are some locations that the emergency raise can cause significant negative impacts on the water surface profile.

None of the twelve systemic flood damage reduction plans had positive net national economic development (NED) benefits. For many plans, the benefit-to-cost ratio (BCR) was below 0.1. Implementation of a large, systemic flood reduction plan would result in significant regional economic benefits related to the short-term increase in employment and construction spending. Significant systemic ecosystem restoration opportunities exist within the Upper Mississippi River System floodplain; however, there are no cost-justified systemic flood damage reduction plans that would support the inclusion of ecosystem restoration projects. Examination of the

need for reconstruction of components the existing flood control systems should be undertaken to insure that the existing system functions into the future providing billions of dollars of benefits. A feasibility phase analysis of Upper Mississippi River bridge approaches should also be undertaken, focused on cost comparisons of raising lengthy bridge approaches vs. raising levee protection.

14. River Pilot Update (Dorie Bollman)

Ferry Landing Proposal

Issuance of a contract to Stanley Consultants is imminent for the purposes of executing a scope or services regarding the proposed re-establishment of a ferry operation between New Boston and Oakville. The contract is funded through the FY05 Transportation appropriation, with state contributions from Iowa and Illinois. Louisa County is the public entity receiving the federal and state funds and is acting as the public contractor. The major components of the contract include: financial feasibility and sustainability planning, identification of “public” operating structure alternatives, generation of an operating plan, hydraulic modeling, dredge planning, gathering of data needed for a DA permit application, and cost estimating for future phases (NEPA, Design). The ultimate purpose of the contract is to determine the long term economic sustainability of this proposal.

QC Whitewater Park

The firm Italo Milani Architect PC is working with locals to create a whitewater park in the Quad Cities area. The current proposed location is within the Hennepin Canal, Milan, Illinois. No project sponsor has been identified. Other locations that have been identified include: the Illinois side of Lock and Dam 14 on the Mississippi River, old Moline Lock and Dam site near Arsenal Island, and in Sylvan Slough. The Sylvan Slough location would raise issues related to the mussel sanctuary located in the slough and the hydropower dam. Much of the Hennepin Canal is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but the area proposed for the whitewater park is in an area excluded from the designation. Mitch White, owner of the hydropower facilities in the area, also has concerns about potential for reduced generating capability. The future steps regarding this proposal remain uncertain.

Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District (Mark McNally)

McNally provided an update on the Mid-America Regional Port plans. McNally stated that in 2000, the Tennessee Valley Authority prepared a reconnaissance level study to see if it was feasible to construct a port, which evaluated 28 potential sites. The answer given from the study was “yes” the port is feasible, and Quincy, Illinois was chosen by the Port Commission as the initial site for a combined public terminal and port facility. The port authority is working on acquiring lands and options to buy in the proposed port area downstream of Lock 21. Although there will be provisions for bulk commodities, the port authority is targeting container-on-barge traffic to bring jobs into the area in manufacturing, warehousing and distribution of finished goods. For bulk products, there will be a conveyor overhead for corn and wet loads such as palm oil and ethanol. The port will initially use gantry cranes until there is enough business to purchase specialized container handling equipment. The port authority has no intention to dredge a slackwater harbor. NEPA documentation has not been initiated. There are plans for a biodiesel plant to be located in the area. Klinger and Associates is preparing an estimate for completing NEPA and permitting work. Mark McNally stated that the port authority has

coordinated with the towing industry and RIAC regarding barges fleeing at this location. McNally reported that the Port Authority has a verbal agreement with Mr. Roy Evans for an option to purchase the southern four acres of the DMMP site the Corps is considering, as the site plan has a road traversing this area, crossing the levee to go to the dock. Mark had a presentation (attachment 8).

Other

The group discussed the 4-acre area of overlap with Site 10 of the Lock 21 DMMP. The Corps needs access under the proposed road for equipment and for placement of a pipeline that will convey the dredged material.

15. Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) (Scott Whitney)

Overview

The Water Resources Development Act may be considered again by Congress in March. The focus is currently on the economics modeling and positioning to initiate construction of ecosystem restoration projects in FY08 if the project is authorized.

In FY08, \$40-50 million is needed to adequately fund both navigation and ecosystem components: 19 ecosystem projects, 8 navigation projects (3 lock expansions), 1 major economics task, 3 program tasks, 31 miscellaneous projects, and NESP has engaged 5 experts in review of the economics modeling.

The stakeholders are actively involved. The Science Panel continues to provide feedback to the product development teams.

The group discussed the status of the Schienaman Chute, and whether construction would be funded by NESP or EMP. Scott Whitney stated that if NESP receives CG funding, he would anticipate the project starting in FY08.

Economic Re-evaluation and Interim Report

Scott Whitney provided talking points for the Global Grain Model (GGM) and Economic Re-evaluation of the Navigation component of NESP. A workshop will be held in February. Development of the forecast for future navigation is important. The Corps is working on preparing a summary of the Ecosystem Evaluation Report for stakeholders. An interim report on the economics is due in September 2007.

NESP Projects

a. Fish Passage (Mark Cornish)

Mark Cornish reviewed the status of fish passage projects at Mel Price and Lock and Dam 22. Pre-project monitoring involved tagging fish. Cornish anticipated tagging over 200 fish at Mel Price Lock and Dam over the next year in addition to deploying receivers above and below Mel Price Lock and Dams, Lock and Dams 19 and Lock and Dam 22 to record movements of tagged fish. Cornish noted that early finding have shown that a silver carp was recorded moving over Mel Price.

b. Mitigation (Mark Cornish)

Mark Cornish presented preliminary findings from ERDC's main channel trawling study to determine impact of tow entrainment of fish. Jack Killgore, the project biologist, has pulled a fish trawl behind a fully loaded commercial tow pushing for over 500 miles of main channel. He found that a small percentage of entrained fish are damaged by the propellers. Fall sampling of 7,000 gizzard shad noted damage in 100 individuals. There seemed to be a correlation between fish size and likelihood of propeller strike, the larger the fish the higher the probability of propeller damage. Killgore also found that catch rates varied between pools and even within pools, indicating a patchy distribution of fish in the main channel. For example, the only place where paddle fish were entrained was near Grafton, Illinois. Jack Killgore will present interim findings of this study to members of the NECC at a meeting in August in the Quad Cities.

16. Corps Budget and Funding (Gary Loss)

Gary Loss, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management for the Corps Rock Island District, reviewed the FY07 funding situation. Mr. Loss indicates the Corps is funded under a Continuing Resolution until February 15. Mr. Loss anticipates a Joint Resolution will be passed funding the Corps through the rest of the FY, but also anticipates that the Corps will have flexibility to move funds between appropriations. Mr. Loss provided his best guess at funding levels for the following projects: NESP - \$10 M, which is similar to previous 2 years. EMP - \$20M total for all three districts. 519 Illinois Basin Restoration - \$3-4 M for planning only. Mississippi River Operations and Maintenance may be short \$10 M and is hiring out the maintenance crew to other districts. Water control and DMMP work will stop if funds are short on the Mississippi river

Mike Griffin noted that President Bush stated in his address to the nation that he wanted to cut earmarking and asked Mr. Loss how that would affect the Corps. Mr. Loss responded that any reduction in earmarking would not occur until FY08 and the effect would depend on how "earmarks" are defined. A participant asked if NESP will die if WRDA is not passed. Mr. Loss stated critical path items depend on \$10-24 M in funding.

17. RRCT Operating Procedures Changes (Staebell)

The Corps will investigate whether the RRCT and FWIC need to modify or develop chartering document to align the FWIC under the RRCT. The proposed change would add consistency among the groups at the three districts. Rick Nelson noted that the three groups will never function the same. Jodi Staebell was tasked with researching the chartering documents for the River Resources Forum and Fish and Wildlife Work Group in the St. Paul District, and the River Resources Action Team (RRAT) and RRAT-Tech in the St. Louis Districts. She will report out at the May meeting.

18. Summary, Next Meeting (Roger Perk, Mike Griffin)

The next meeting of the RRCT was scheduled for May 9-10 with a site visit to Pool 18 to see and discuss a variety of projects in the area. In the future, RRCT meetings will be held on the second Tuesday and Wednesday in January, May and October. Upcoming dates include; October 9-10, 2007, January 8-9, 2008, etc.

Attachments (9)

Jodi Staebell
RRCT Coordinator

CF (w/ attachments):

PM (Loss)

PM-M (Dist)

PM-F (Perk, Thompson, Staebell,

Schroeder, Knollenberg, Plumley)

PM-M (Hubbell, Skalak, Whitney, DeHaan)

PM-A (Barr, Bollman, Cornish, Johnson,

Carr)

OD (Russell)

OD-T (Hardison, Brenner, Klingman,
McVay)

OD-M (Gretten)

OD-I (Cox)

ED-HH (Martens)

RE (Fiscus)

External Distribution:

See Distribution List (Attachment 9)